I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Manipur	2	0	73	1	1	3	1
Meghalaya	1	0	58	0	0	2	0
Mizoram	1	0	31	0	0	2	I
Nagaland	1	0	49	0	0	!	18
Sikkim	4 ***	1	7	1	1	2	2
Tripura	2 *	0	25	1	1	1	5
TOTAL:	19	4	680	7	11	53	49

Source: - Selected Educational Statistics - 2004-05, M/o HRD. D/0 Higher Education.

*Figure includes one State University each in Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura, which have been converted into Central Univerity *w.e.f.* 9.4.2007 and 2.7.2007 respectively.

** Source: - University Grants Commission (UGC).

***Figure includes a new Central University (Sikkim University), which has been established *w.e.f.* 2.7.2007. In Sikkim, apart from Sikkim University (Central University), there are three private universities, namely, (i) Manipal University, Rangpoo, (ii) ICFAl University, Gangtok, and (iii) Eastern Institute of Integrated Learning and Management (EIILM), Jorethang. In addition, there are four-Degree level Government colleges including one Law college and three Private colleges imparting degree level courses.

Gratuity benefits to teachers

2164. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Supreme Court judgement of 2004 had debarred the teachers of private schools from claiming gratuity benefits unde the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, as they were not construed to be workmen; and

(b) whether Government propose to remove the ambiguities in interpretation of the Act, as manifested in the judgement, and if so, the details of the-proposed Government moves to nullify the impact of the Court ruling, by suitable legislation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in their judgement dated 13th January, 2004 in a matter between Ahmedabad Private Primary Teachers' Association *Vs* Administrative Officers and others have ruled that teachers are not intended to be covered for extension of gratuity benefits under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972. Ministry of Labour and Employment, which is the Administrative Ministry dealing with this matter, has informed that certain proposals to extend the benefits under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 in respect of teachers in private schools are under process.

Regulatory authority for higher education

2165. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission has proposed fo> the setting up of an independent regulatory authority for higher education;

(b) whether the gmmission has proposed that the new regulatory authority would take over the functions of UGC, AICTE, the Medical Council of India and the Dental Councils of India, etc.; and

(c) whether Government are considering the creation of a National Commission on Higher Education to take over the functions of the proposed regulatory authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Knowledge Commission (NKC) has recommended that while the role of University Grants Commission (UGC) would be re-defined to focus on the disbursement of grants to and maintenance of, public institutions in higher education, the entry regulatory functions of the AICTE, the Medical Council of India and Bar Council of India would be performed by the Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education (IRAHE), so that their role would be Irmited to that of professional associations. However, recommendations of the NKC are in the public domain for wider debate among all stake-holders.

(c) A proposal to set up a 'National Commission on Higher Education' is under consideration in the light of the observations of various concerned stake-holders.

Investment in education

†2166. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Committee headed by Shri Kapil Sibal, constituted by Central Advisory Board of Education, has.'recommended the need for investment of 3,21,196 crore rupees from 2006-07 to 2011-12, for implementation of the legislation on compulsory education for children between the age group of six to fourteen years under the Eighty-sixth Constitution Amendment;

(b) if so, the fact in this regard and whether it is also a fact that Government ' have not sanctioned this amount of expenditure; and

(c) if so, the amount estimated by Government for expenditure and the basis of this estimate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The Kapil Sibal Committee had relied on the financial estimate prepared by National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) to put in to effect tho right to free and compulsory education to all children in the age group of six to fourteen years. This financial estimate was based on four alternative scenarios, the lowest estimate being Rs.3,21,196 crores and the highest Rs.4,36,459 crores over a six year

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.